



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**August 14, 2008**

**TO:** Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

**FROM:** Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**RE:** Weekly E-Newsletter

### **IN THIS REPORT:**

- **Learn more about the IDeal College Savings Program**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
- **What's New**
- **Reminders**
- **Upcoming Deadlines**

### **LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IDEAL COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM (GO TO TOP)**

The following information has been provided by the IDeal – Idaho College Savings Program, sponsored by the Idaho State Treasurer's Office. IDeal is a great way for Idaho families to invest money for college. Please feel free to share this information with your parents, teachers, school administrators and others.

*Open an IDeal – Idaho College Savings Program account this September!*

Whether it's an infant coming home for the first time, a kindergartner on the first day of school, or a middle school student at graduation, all children deserve a future full of possibilities. With IDeal — Idaho College Savings Program, parents, grandparents, family, and friends can help give children the future they deserve. IDeal is a 529 college savings plan, which is a tax-advantaged program that helps families invest money for college.

Accounts in IDeal grow tax deferred and withdrawals used for qualified educational expenses are generally tax free. Plus, Idaho residents can enjoy an Idaho state income tax deduction of up to \$4,000 a year (\$8,000 if married filing jointly). Other benefits include low fees, convenient online account management, a wide variety of investment options, and the flexibility to use the funds at any eligible college or university.

There are also two unique services that can help families boost their IDeal college savings: Ugift<sup>SM</sup> and Upromise rewards<sup>®</sup>. Ugift is an innovative online tool that lets account owners invite family and friends to celebrate children's milestones with the gift of college savings. Upromise rewards is a free program that allows account owners to boost their college savings through everyday shopping at hundreds of America's leading retailers.

For more information on IDeal and how it can help families save for college, visit [www.idsaves.org](http://www.idsaves.org), or call 1-866-433-2533.



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### SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will attend the State Land Board meeting from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, August 19, 2008 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the dedication of Lone Star Middle School at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, August 20, 2008 in Nampa.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the announcement of a federal grant to assist Idaho charter schools at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, August 20, 2008 in Nampa.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the State Board of Education meeting on Thursday, August 21, 2008 and Friday, August 22, 2008 in Pocatello.

### WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Alternative Authorization deadline** – The deadline to submit Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate requests is **September 25, 2008**. If you have questions, please contact Cina Oravez at (208) 332-6936 or [CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov). Please submit complete application packets to Cina Oravez, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to this date. You can mail applications to:  
State Department of Education  
ATTN: Cina Oravez  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0027  
Boise, ID 83720-0027
- **Register for the IBEDS/HQT workshops** – Register now for the IBEDS/HQT Training Workshops. School administrators are encouraged to attend. The morning session will cover the important basics of IBEDS and certificated staff credentialing related to funding as well as state and federal reporting. The afternoon session will be targeted towards use of the IBEDS Program. Visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/forms/ibeds\\_form/default.asp](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/forms/ibeds_form/default.asp) to register for the workshops. If you have questions, please contact LaRae Ashby at (208) 332-6845 or [LBashby@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:LBashby@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Competition for Young Inventors** – The Sealed Air Corporation and The National Museum of Education have announced the third annual BubbleWrap® Competition for Young Inventors for grades 5-8. This innovative contest incorporates national and state academic standards in the fields of engineering design, problem-solving, entrepreneurship and all of the core curricular subjects. Visit [www.nmoe.org](http://www.nmoe.org) for more details about the competition. The deadline is **November 3, 2008** and applications may be received via hard copy mail, email or FAX. If you have further questions, please contact the National Museum of Education at [info@nmoe.org](mailto:info@nmoe.org) or (330) 376-8300.
- **Idaho Drop Out Summit scheduled** – Mark your calendars. The Idaho Drop Out Summit has been scheduled for January 30, 2009 at the Nampa Civic Center. More details to come.



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### REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Federal Program Directors' Meeting** – The annual Federal Program Directors' Meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2008 at the DoubleTree Hotel Riverside in Boise. You can register online at [www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov), click on the link under "Latest News." A block of rooms has been reserved for September 14 and 15 for participants. Please contact the hotel to make the reservations at (208) 343-1871. Reserve your room by **September 1, 2008**. More information can be found on our Web site. If you have questions, please contact the NCLB Team administrative assistants: Claudia Striegel at (208) 332-6906, [cstriegel@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:cstriegel@sde.idaho.gov) or Tyrel Trainor at (208) 332-6942, [tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov).
- **FREE School Review Process Guide** – The Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement is a federally funded organization charged with providing support and technical assistance to schools and districts in needs improvement status. They have recently developed a School Review Process Guide designed to walk schools and districts through a meaningful and useful school improvement planning process. The guide includes processes and implementation tools in these four areas: 1. Developing School Leadership Teams, 2. Useful Data Collection, 3. Analysis & Interpretation, 4. School Improvement Planning & Implementation. This guide and included tools are FREE of charge. Informational teleconferences are being offered on August 27, 2008 at 11 a.m. (1 p.m. Eastern) and September 10, 2008 at 2 p.m. (4 p.m. Eastern). If you are interested in learning more about the guide or signing up for one of the teleconference sessions, please contact Carolyn A. Brown, PhD, Senior Research Associate at [carolyn.brown@learningpt.org](mailto:carolyn.brown@learningpt.org).
- **2008 Idaho Student Mock Election** – Secretary of State Ben Ysursa invites your high school to participate in the 2008 Idaho Student Mock Election. This online voting exercise has been developed in cooperation with the State Department of Education to instill an appreciation and importance of voting in Idaho's young people. The goal of the program is to provide an active voting experience for high school students across the state. Any high school government class is welcome to participate by using school computers during the mock election. The 2008 Idaho Student Mock Election will be available for two days only: Thursday, October 23 and Friday, October 24. For more details, please visit <http://www.sos.idaho.gov/isme/ISMEIndex.jsp>. To participate, please e-mail a list of interested teachers and their school email addresses to [isme@sos.idaho.gov](mailto:isme@sos.idaho.gov) or contact the SOS directly at (208) 334-2852.
- **Apply for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables program** – The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) has been expanded to all 50 states and Guam. A few changes have been made to the original program, which include:
  - Only **elementary** schools in the state with more than 50% free and reduced students can participate in this program;
  - More than 25 schools in Idaho can be selected;
  - The school site must make **free FRESH fruits and vegetables** available to students in one or more areas designated by the school in addition to the National School Lunch Program (dried fruit is not allowed anymore).At this time, the State Department of Education is accepting applications from National School Lunch Program sponsors for sites that want to be considered for this program. To apply, please visit [www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp) and submit your application by **August 28, 2008**.



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If you have further questions about the program, please contact Lynda Westphal in Child Nutrition Programs at the State Department of Education at (208) 332-6825 or [LJWestphal@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:LJWestphal@sde.idaho.gov).

- **Certification Renewal Pilot Project** – The State Department of Education is piloting a simplified process for recertification this fall. After hearing feedback about how cumbersome this process has become, the Department is piloting a procedure that will only require individuals to submit a Renewal Application and a check for the recertification fee at the time of renewal. For accountability purposes, the Department will randomly select a minimum of 10 percent of Renewal Applications to audit. If audited, the individual will have up to 60 days to submit proof of professional development to the State Department of Education. All teachers and administrators are eligible to take part in the pilot project this fall if they are required to recertify in the Fall 2008. To participate, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacherCertification/default.asp> and submit your materials by **August 29, 2008**.
- **Wind for Schools project** – Idaho has been selected as one of six states participating in *Wind for Schools*, a unique educational project in collaboration with Boise State University, the U.S. Department of Energy and Idaho's wind energy industry. This project is designed to educate our students about wind energy and prepare them for future jobs in this industry. Wind is the fastest-growing energy source both worldwide and in the US. The goal is to install wind turbines at four rural schools per year for the next three years. If your school is interested in participating in this project, please visit <http://coen.boisestate.edu/WindEnergy/WfS/index.asp>, complete the application and submit it to Todd Haynes at Boise State University at [toddhaynes@boisestate.edu](mailto:toddhaynes@boisestate.edu).
- **First Freedom essay contest** – The Council for America's First Freedom has announced the 16<sup>th</sup> annual First Freedom Student Competition, a national essay contest that offers students in grades 9-12 an opportunity to compete for a \$3,000, \$1,500 or \$750 award as they examine the First Amendment and the history and relevance of religious freedom in America and the world today. The topic this year introduces students to George Washington's famous statement about "mere" toleration. Students will identify the basic principles of religious liberty espoused in this primary document and will further research and assess how well the United States has lived up to Washington's ideal. For more information on this competition, please visit [www.firstfreedom.org](http://www.firstfreedom.org). Registration is due by Monday, November 24, 2008, and the postmark entry deadline is **Friday, November 28**.
- **New IRI materials for 2008-2009** – Please remember the State Department of Education is mailing new testing materials for the 2008-2009 Idaho Reading Indicator. Do not use testing materials from the previous school year to administer the IRI in 2008-2009. Old materials may be used as practice guides. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Fisk, Reading Coordinator, at (208) 332-6927 or [JFisk@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JFisk@sde.idaho.gov).
- **IBEDS codes** – The listing of 2008-2009 IBEDS Endorsements to IBEDS Assignment Codes are now available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/datacollection/ibeds/>. The listing will be a useful tool for school officials to use in assigning/staffing their programs this fall.
- **Attendance and Enrollment workshops** – Here is the schedule of workshops:

Thursday, August 7th	Boise	Barbara Morgan Conference Room, 650 W. State, Boise
Friday, August 8th	Boise	Barbara Morgan Conference Room, 650 W. State, Boise
Tuesday, August 12th	Idaho Falls	Taylorview Jr High, 350 Castlerock Ln, Idaho Falls

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Office Location  
650 West State Street

Telephone  
208-332-6800

Speech/Hearing Impaired  
1-800-377-3529

Fax  
208-334-2228

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Wednesday, August 13th	Pocatello	Pocatello District Office Board Room, 3115 Pole Line Rd Pocatello
Thursday, August 14th	Jerome	Summit Elementary, 200 West 10th Street, Jerome
Monday, August 18th	Coeur d'Alene	Midtown Meeting Room, 1505 N 5th Street, Coeur d'Alene Lewiston District Office Board Room, 3317 12th Street, Lewiston
Tuesday, August 19th	Lewiston	Lewiston

For more information, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/financeandtechnology/default.asp> and click on the "Attendance and Enrollment Workshop" link listed under "Training" in the column to the right of the page.

### UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **Aug. 15, 2008** – The Title I-A Annual Performance Report is due. Please submit this online at [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title\\_one/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/). Please scroll to the bottom of the page. The contact for the performance report at the State Department of Education is Tyrel Trainor at (208) 332-6942, NCLB Administrative Assistant, [tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Aug. 15, 2008** – The Title I Summer Extended Time Report is due. Visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title\\_one/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/) and scroll to the bottom of the page. Contact Tyrel Trainor at (208) 332-6942, NCLB Administrative Assistant, [tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov) with any needs or questions regarding the report.
- **Aug. 29, 2008** – The deadline to submit applications for Safe Routes to School funding to the Idaho Transportation Department. For more information, visit [www.itd.idaho.gov](http://www.itd.idaho.gov) and click on "Safe Routes to School."
- **Sept. 1, 2008** – The deadline for school districts to adopt a policy allowing students to use epinephrine auto-injectors for severe allergic reactions. State Department of Education staff discussed this new requirement passed by the Idaho Legislature in 2008 on the Post-Legislative Tour. This is in the same section of law as the existing requirement that boards allow the use of inhalers for students with asthma or other life-threatening respiratory illnesses. Students are to be allowed to carry and self-administer these drugs on school grounds, though the district may require that a duplicate copy of the prescription be kept on file with the school nurse, or, in the absence of a school nurse, with the school's administrator. For more information on Senate Bill 1443, please visit <http://www3.state.id.us/oasis/S1443.html>.
- **Sept. 30, 2008** – The deadline to submit nominations for Idaho Teacher of the Year to the State Department of Education. Applications for the 2009 Idaho Teacher of the Year are now available on the State Department of Education's Web site at [www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear). Please note that the Idaho Teacher of the Year application is the same as the application for the National Teacher of the Year.